



July 9th: Doug Griffin - Flying Is More Than Fun



PHOTO: JOE MATHEWS

Doug Griffin, a Venice resident, has been financial consultant and flight instructor for over thirty years. Doug's passion for aviation has inspired creation of The Venice Student Aero Club, a non-profit awaiting its 501c3 status, dedicated to aviation education for Venice area students. The growth of aviation has created a shortage of pilots and mechanics which provides job and career opportunities for young people. Doug's goal is to make the field more welcoming and accessible by offering students the opportunity to learn all aspects of aviation, including building a plane and flying. [Pilots and Paws](#), his other passion, provides pilots with charitable humanitarian opportunities to transport animals needing rescue from disasters and high kill shelters.

REPORTER: LESLIE GLASS

Rotary Peace Initiatives for 2019-2020

Improving quality of life. Rotary members founded the People for People Foundation, which has helped 10,000 families afford food, clothing, rent, utilities, medications, and other necessities.

Raising awareness of bullying. Rotaract clubs in the Philippines conduct anti-bullying campaigns in schools to teach children how to handle conflict peacefully from an early age.

Protecting domestic violence survivors and their families. The U.S. state of Louisiana has the fourth highest incidence of death caused by domestic violence. Local Rotary members met this issue by helping a shelter provide food, clothing, legal advocacy, and counseling to over 500 women in one year.

Promoting positive peace. Rotary has partnered with the [Institute for Economics and Peace](#), an independent think tank and leader in the study of peace and conflict, to help address the root causes of conflict and create conditions that foster peace.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

July 30th - No Meeting

August 6th - Charles Reith - Phd.

Aug 13th - No Meeting

August 20th - Amela Malkic

USF Director of Global Engagement



President - John Mousseau
President-Elect - Terry Brackett
Vice-President - Janalee Heinemann
Secretary - Joan Mathews
Treasurer - Inez Gutman
Sgt. At Arms - Barb Viola
Immediate P. Pres - Gene Jones

This Week: Olympia Spivey - NYU Studies



Olympia Spivey was born and raised in Sarasota, Florida. She graduated from Pine View School in 2017 with National Merit, and has been attending New York University since the fall of 2017. Entering her junior year of under-graduate studies, she is majoring in International Relations with minors in Peace and Conflict Studies and French. Olympia is in

the process of completing an accelerated degree program, finishing her B.A. in 2021 and an M.A. in 2022. She is a Presidential Honors Scholar, College Cohort Program Leader, and a board and club member of NYU's Pulse Dance Project. After her studies, she hopes to do more work with non-profit organizations, government, and diplomacy.

RCSB Speaker Program Schedule

Carol Mitchell/Janalee Heinemann/Terry Brackett

August 6th - Charles Reith - Club Member

August 20th - Amela Malkic - USF Global Engagement Director

September 10th - Greg Sledziewski - Brain Wave Centers

September 24th - Colleen Berish - Training for small business

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

President-Elect John has released the club summer meeting schedule. With all the snow birds headed north, the club takes a little personal time to enjoy the summer. Don't worry, there will be opportunities to get together during the summer like the FRIDAY FESTS at the Van Wezel and the Food Pantry opportunities!

July	August	September
Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
2		3
No Meeting		No Meeting
No Meeting		No Meeting
9	6	10
16	13	17
No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting
No meeting	No meeting	No meeting
23	20	24
30	27	
No Meeting	No Meeting	
No Meeting	No Meeting	October Meetings every week

International Chair of the Rotary “End Polio Now” Campaign Past RI Vice-President Mike McGovern



1. There were more cases of wild poliovirus in 2018 than in 2017. Should we be discouraged?

No, not at all. We've always expected the number of cases to fluctuate somewhat as we get closer to zero. We've gone four straight years with fewer than 100 cases per year. That's an indicator of great progress. With dedication from governments and Rotarians in areas still affected by polio, we'll get there.

2. Why is it so difficult to eradicate a disease like polio?

Remember that even in the United States, where the polio vaccine was readily available, it still took 20 years to become polio-free. And the areas we are working in now don't have health systems that are as well-developed as in the United States.

3. What challenges are you seeing now?

We have been working intensely in the endemic countries — Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan — for a number of years, and some of the citizens in those countries are getting concerned that we are spending money on polio eradication when they have so many other needs. There's some resistance to keep on receiving immunizations for polio, and polio alone. Our challenge is to find ways to provide other services to the citizens and children so we still have the parental support we need — to provide the “plus” in PolioPlus.

4. What role does armed conflict play in those areas?

It makes the logistics of immunization far more difficult. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative partnership is not only dealing with governments — we're dealing with anti-government elements as well. While we've worked to gain everyone's trust and support, we've had areas that were inaccessible to immunization teams for months and sometimes years at a time.

5. Do immunization teams know when they miss children? Or are there children they don't even know about?

I think we have a good handle now on knowing when and where we're missing children. The challenge is to keep reducing the number we miss. In Nigeria, we have done a lot of work since we were surprised by the discovery of several polio cases in Borno state in 2016, two years after the country had last seen a polio case. We now know through GPS mapping where the children are, and we are working with authorities there to make sure all children receive the polio vaccine.

6. Where are we seeing successes?

We haven't had any cases of wild poliovirus anywhere in the world in nearly five years except in the three endemic countries. And in Nigeria, it's been almost three years since we had any wild poliovirus cases, and those occurred in a small area of the country.

7. What's the most important thing Rotarians should know?

I've been extremely impressed with the dedication and persistence of Rotarians in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. They are working hard to make sure polio is eradicated. It's pretty amazing what they do in those countries.

Rotarians should continue to be optimistic and to support eradication. We also need Rotarians to bring the need for continued funding to the attention of their government leaders. We can't lose sight of the goal.